**Bringing( Church Home – February 11, 2018**

**Bible** **Bites**

*These short passages come from the Lectionary readings for today.*

Monday 2 Kings 2:1-12 Elijah ascends in a heavenly chariot

Tuesday Psalm 50:2 God is revealed in his glory

Wednesday 2 Cor. 4:3-6 Let light shine out of darkness

Thursday Mark 9:2 Jesus climbs up a high mountain

Friday Mark 9:3 Jesus looks amazing

Saturday Mark 9: 4-9 Peter wants to stay behind

**Ritual**

*An activity to try at home*

Elijah takes a long walk from Gilgal, to Bethel, to Jericho, to the Jordan before ascending in the fiery chariot. Take a long look at your life. What have been the important stopping places for you along the way? What did you learn about God in each place? What did you learn about yourself in relationship to God? Who accompanied you on that part of the journey? What did you take with you to the next stopping point? Where are you now? (This ritual might make for some good journal entries.)

**Holy Conversation**

*Talking points for a family or small group conversation*

Mark’s gospel describes an event the church calls “Transfiguration.”

* Recall a time when you had “a mountaintop experience.”
* What made it so memorable?
* How were you transfigured or changed?
* What did it help you understand about God? Yourself?
* How did you commemorate it, if at all?
* Was it hard to leave the mountaintop? What made you?

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**Caring**

*An idea for putting faith to work*

Lots of people go on mission trips with their church to areas where disaster has struck. Why not explore the idea? It’s a big commitment, but it might be one of those mountain top experiences that changes your life.

**A Prayer for the Week**

Deliver me, God, from sleep-walking through my life. Help me be tuned in to the glories of your world, the people who surround me daily, the chances I might pass by, the creativity I neglect, your call to me. Amen.

**A Blessing**

*You could place your hands on another and say this blessing.*

*You could also say it tenderly for yourself.*

May today begin the transformation that will take the rest of your life.

**Bible Verse for the Week**

For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 4:6)

**A Spiritual Song for the Week**

Swing low, sweet chariot  
Comin' for to carry me home  
Swing low, sweet chariot  
Comin' for to carry me home

I looked over Jordan and what did I see  
Comin' for to carry me home  
A band of angels comin' after me  
Comin' for to carry me home (Refrain)

If you get to heaven before I do  
Comin' for to carry me home  
Tell all my friends I'm comin' there too  
Comin' for to carry me home (Refrain)

I'm sometimes up and sometimes down  
Comin' for to carry me home  
But still I know I'm heavenly (*freedom*) bound  
Comin' for to carry me home (Refrain)